

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, November 27, 1880, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Bailey's Hotel, Glo'ster Road, Queen's Gate, S. W., London. November 27th, 1880. My nice little wifie:

The lecture before the Physical Society went off better than I expected this afternoon. After floundering about for a few minutes far out of my depth — I dived deep into the middle of my subject — forgot my audience — and went on swimmingly to the end.

Mr. Huckley was present and took down the address in shorthand. He is to come here tomorrow to write it all out so that I may study it up for the second dress rehearsal in Leeds on Tuesday evening — After that I think I may trust myself to make a success of it at the Society of Arts on Wednesday.

Your father and I dined with Mr. Brand this evening and enjoyed ourselves very much. Mr. Brand is such a genial good-hearted man — that he takes one quite by storm in spite of his eccentricities of expression — I believe he could safely be trusted to thaw the heart of an ice-berg if had a chance. I know for my part — I should feel inclined to knock any other man down who should dare address your father as “? say old Hubby!” — but it seems the most natural thing in the world from him. And your father seems to like it and appreciates nice old Brandy! very much. Old Mrs Brand too is so quaint and delightful — (though I horrified her by eulogizing Darwin) — and the little tinge of Scotch accent carries me back to my boyish days. There is an atmosphere of comfort in their home — and a general spirit of genuine affection for one another seems to pervade the whole family.

I scribble this scrawl for your father to carry to Paris — and 2 I do hope you will come right over here with him as soon as possible. I hope you sent the cablegram to your Uncle Eustis.

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Telegraph upon receipt of this when you will come so that I may have time to engage rooms for you.

And now my little wife Good night — with a heartful of love to you — my little ones — your Mamma — Grace and Charlieberta. Au revoir.

Your loving, Alec. Mrs. Alec. Bell, 8 Rue Cambon, Paris.